

Capsule Summary

SM-365

Fenwick House (aka Sawyer House)

Leonardtwn

Private

1898-1899

In the latter stages of the nineteenth century, Leonardtown's residential growth began to expand further north along Washington Street towards Hollywood. On September 27, 1898 Ann V. Jarboe transferred a 3 1/4 acre tract to Nannie G. Fenwick, the wife of Aloysius F. Fenwick. Less than a month later on October 20, 1898, the St. Mary's Beacon reported that lumber for the Fenwicks' new house was being hauled to the site.¹ By January 5, 1899, the interior of the dwelling was being plastered and the roof was installed by Mr. Viatt.² The resulting building was a modest two story, frame dwelling. This modest building was transformed in 1910, when the Fenwicks appropriated a number of Queen Anne style architectural elements to create one of the best examples of the style in St. Mary's County.

As operators of a saw mill and local hotel (See SM-545), the Fenwicks were able to communicate their relative commercial successes through architectural expression not only through the initial construction of the house, but in a number of changes they implemented in 1910. These changes included numerous cross gables with pendants, crowned exterior window lintels, and corbelled and sawtooth set brick chimney flues -- all diagnostic elements of the Queen-Anne style.

The property remained in the Fenwick family until 1969 when John W. and M. Ruth Little purchased the house from Annabel B. Fenwick. Other Fenwick family members live nearby as Charles Fenwick, Jr. occupies a dwelling just north of his old family estate. During the mid-twentieth century, his father Charles Fenwick, Sr. was a prominent historian in St. Mary's County and was instrumental in creating and supporting the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

¹ St. Mary's Beacon, v60, 1110, p4, c2, October 20, 1898.

² SMB, v60, 1117, p3, c1, January 5, 1899. Telephone conversation with Thomas "Eddie" Stokel. Mr. Viatt was a local contractor who frequently advertised in the St. Mary's Beacon during the late-nineteenth century encouraging the use of metal roofs that he installed.

SM-365, Fenwick House
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function and Use:

Residence

Known Design Source:

None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-365

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fenwick House (pref.)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 62 North Washington Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown

☐ vicinity of

congressional district 3

state Md

county St. Mary's

TM-127, G-16, P-481

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Donald John and Linda L. McCaffrey

street & number 62 N. Washington Street 41685 Laverne Ln

telephone no.: 301-475-3961

city, town Leonardtown

state and zip code Md 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber MRB 117

street & number

folio 488

city, town Leonardtown

state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title W. W. Sawyer House

date 1980s

☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville

state Md

7. Description

Survey No. SM-365

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Fenwick House is located on the southeast corner of Washington and Laverne Streets in Leonardtown, Maryland. Situated on a flat .544 acre town lot, the house is oriented on an east/west axis with the primary elevation facing Washington Street. Bounded to the south by the Abell/Greenwell House (SM-561), to the west and south by roads, and to the east by a residence, the Fenwick House is one of several large two story residences that line the north entrance into Leonardtown.

The Fenwick House is a two-and-a-half story, asymmetrically massed, frame dwelling constructed in the Queen Anne style. Initially erected in 1898-1899, and modified in the 1910s and again in the mid-twentieth century, the dwelling rests on a brick foundation consisting of evenly fired brick laid in an irregular common bond. Originally sheathed with clapboard fastened with mature cut nails, all of the dwelling's walls are currently clad with asbestos siding. The boxed cornice is situated at the juncture of the walls and raised seam metal roof pierced by two interior chimney flues. The roof is studded by a number of cross gables and a slender turret whose roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The primary or west elevation is characterized by its asymmetrical fenestration and massing. The first floor is dominated by a centrally located set of four panel French doors replete with panelled and glazed sidelights and a three-pane transom. This is flanked to the north by a projecting two story, three sided bay that is lit by a set of paired two-over-two, double-hung sash windows surrounded by a scar that suggests it was once decorated with a triangular-shaped lintel with accompanying trim. Architectural evidence, namely the different size of the windows and change in interior trim, as well as oral tradition reveal that this section of the house was an addition made in the 1910s. To the south of the door is an elongated two-over-four window and a slender five sided turret at the building's southwest corner. Three sides of the turret are lit by one-over-one windows. A wrap around porch extends from the three sided projection and around the turret to shade much of the elevation's south side. This porch has been extensively repaired but currently exhibits modern turned porch posts and intermittent balustrades. A closed-bed pediment lies just above the stairs to the main door.

Immediately above the door and elongated window on the second floor are two, two-over-two windows. Like the first floor, the three sided bay is lit by a set of paired two-over-two windows and the turret is pierced by three, one-over-one windows. The roof features a number of projecting cross gables. The largest cross gable is situated in the center of the elevation. Decorated at its peak by a pendant (all of cross gables feature similar pendants), the gable is pierced by a one-over-one window. A second smaller cross gable lies directly over the three sided projecting bay. The gable is pierced by a diminutive four pane fixed sash that is embellished with a triangular lintel and accompanying trim.

The north elevation consists of the 1910s addition's side and side of the main block. The addition is pierced on the first and second floors by a two-over-two window. An unglazed cross gable lies above these bays. A brick chimney flue situated near the juncture of the main block and addition is elaborated by a corbelled and sawtooth studded top. The main block is pierced by a two-over-two window on the first and second floors. A narrow two story service stair and wing lies to the east of the main block. It is pierced on the first floor by a one-over-one window and on

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-365

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In the latter stages of the nineteenth century, Leonardtown's residential growth began to expand further north along Washington Street towards Hollywood. On September 27, 1898 Ann V. Jarboe transferred a 3 1/4 acre tract to Nannie G. Fenwick, the wife of Aloysius F. Fenwick. Less than a month later on October 20, 1898, the St. Mary's Beacon reported that lumber for the Fenwicks' new house was being hauled to the site.¹ By January 5, 1899, the interior of the dwelling was being plastered and the roof was installed by Mr. Viatt.² The resulting building was a modest two story, frame dwelling. This modest building was transformed in 1910, when the Fenwick's appropriated a number of Queen Anne style architectural elements to create one of the best examples of the style in St. Mary's County.

As operators of a saw mill and local hotel (See SM-545), the Fenwicks were able to communicate their relative commercial successes through architectural expression not only through the initial construction of the house, but in a number of changes they implemented in 1910. These changes included numerous cross gables with pendants, crowned exterior window lintels, and corbelled and sawtooth set brick chimney flues -- all diagnostic elements of the Queen-Anne style. The resulting composition appeared homogeneous from the exterior.

The property remained in the Fenwick family until 1969 when John W. and M. Ruth Little purchased the house from Annabel B. Fenwick. Other Fenwick family members live nearby as Charles Fenwick, Jr. occupies a dwelling just north of his old family estate. During the mid-twentieth century, his father Charles Fenwick, Sr. was a prominent historian in St. Mary's County and was instrumental in creating and supporting the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-365

See Significance 8.0.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .544 acresQuadrangle name LeonardtownQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Dept. Of Planning & Zoningdate 8-17-98street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Md

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-365, The Fenwick House

St. Mary's County

7.1 Description

the second by a door that is approached by a modern, pressure-treated wood stairway. A one story addition lies to the east of the service stair. It is lit by a one-over-one window.

The east elevation consists of a series of descending additions and the side of the c. 1910 north addition. The north addition is pierced by a two-over-two window on the first and second floors. The rear of the main block is not as straightforward for it reveals two, one story additions that partially incorporated the pre-existing two story service stair/maid's quarters. Only the addition that incorporated the base of the service stair is pierced by a six-over-six window. This window is located adjacent to a six-pane-over-three panel door situated on the south side of the other one story addition. Both of these bays are shaded by a shed roof porch supported by a lone post. The main block is lit on the second floor by a two-over-two window as well as a one-over-one window that lies in the cross gable.

The south elevation consists of the main block's side and the sides of the rear additions. The service stair/maids quarters is lit by a six-over-six window on the second floor, while the main block is pierced by a two-over-two window on the first and second floors. A four pane fixed sash window with a triangular lintel and trim lights a large cross gable. The aforementioned turret projects from this elevation's west corner.

While the exterior presents an asymmetrical massing of projections, crossgables, and a turret, the interior follows a more conventional arrangement of spaces. Despite several alterations in the twentieth century, architectural evidence and oral history reveals that the dwelling originally contained a side-passage, double-pile plan with a rear maid's quarters and service stair. In 1910 the interior was transformed in order to incorporate a new north room as well as several new half story bedrooms. To accomplish this, the closed string staircase with a slender newel and turned balusters was reversed to make enough space available for a door into the new room. The trim in this new space is demonstratively different than that found in the rest of the dwelling. It features a distinctive triple bead typically found in trim from house's built in the 1900s and 1910s. The parlor on the south side of the passage features a centrally placed, elaborate mantel. The passage also permits entry into a rear chamber with a corner fireplace and an unheated breakfast room that borders an old kitchen, pantry, mud room, and service stair.

In the mid-twentieth century, the dwelling was divided into a multi-family residence. As a result the second floor features a fully equipped kitchen as well as a series of bedrooms that radiate from the center passage. A stair to the attic leads to two more bedrooms.

SM-365, Fenwick House (aka Sawyer House)

St. Mary's County

8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 117, Folio 488

Grantee: Donald John and Linda L. McCaffrey

Grantor: Walter W. and Pamela P. Sawyer and Maria Price

Date: May 21, 1982

Notes: A survey by George W. Joy was conducted on March 27, 1948. It could not be located.

Reference: Liber MRB 282, Folio 93

Grantee: Walter W. and Pamela P. Sawyer

Grantor: William H. Little

Date: October 13, 1977

Reference: Liber DBK 183, Folio 499

Grantee: William H. Little

Grantor: John W. and M. Ruth Little

Date: November 8, 1972

Reference: Liber DBK 148, Folio 71

Grantee: John W. and M. Ruth Little

Grantor: Annabel B. Fenwick

Date: January 23, 1969

Notes: Here the conveyance notes that the parcel consists of 1.98 acres.

Reference: Liber CBG 22, Folio 119

Grantee: Aloysius F. and Anabel B. Fenwick

Grantor: Joseph C. Mattingly

Date: July 17, 1948

Reference: Liber CBG 22, Folio 118

Grantee: Joseph C. Mattingly

Grantor: William G. Fenwick, et al (heirs of Nannie G. Fenwick)

Date: July 17, 1948

Reference: Liber JJG 5, Folio 312

Grantee: Nannie G. Fenwick

Grantor: Ann V. Jarboe

Date: September 27, 1898

Notes: Called "Part of Darley" the tract is described as containing 3 1/4 acres.

Reference: Liber JJG 5, Folio 312

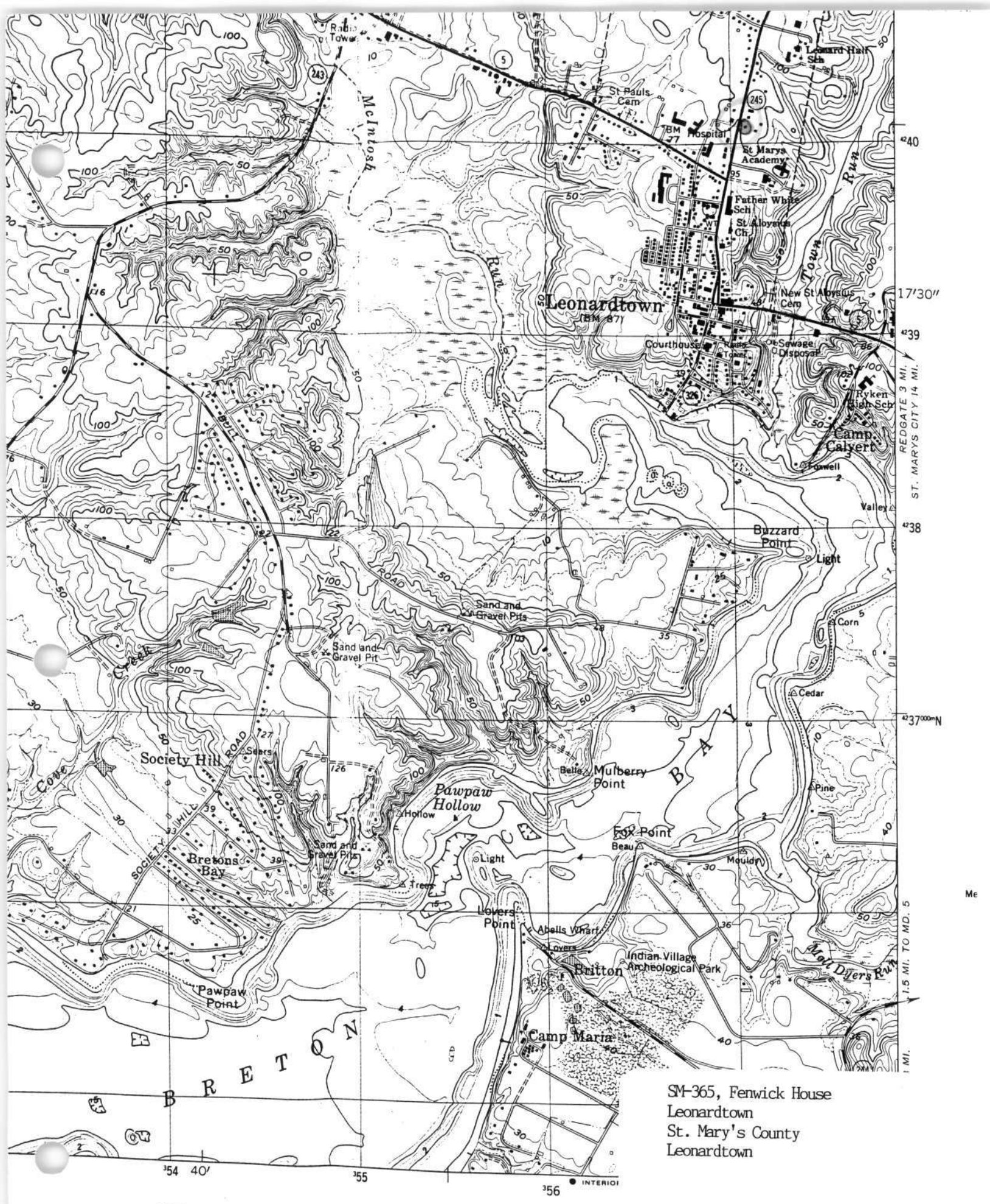
Grantee: Nannie G. Fenwick

Grantor: Ann V. Jarboe

Date: September 27, 1898

SM-365, Fenwick House (aka Sawyer House)
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JAC 3, Folio 353
Grantee: Ann V. Jarboe
Grantor: John F. and Priscilla Wathen
Date: January 29, 1869
Notes: Here the parcel is listed as having 6 1/4 acres.



SM-365, Fenwick House
Leonardtown
St. Mary's County
Leonardtown

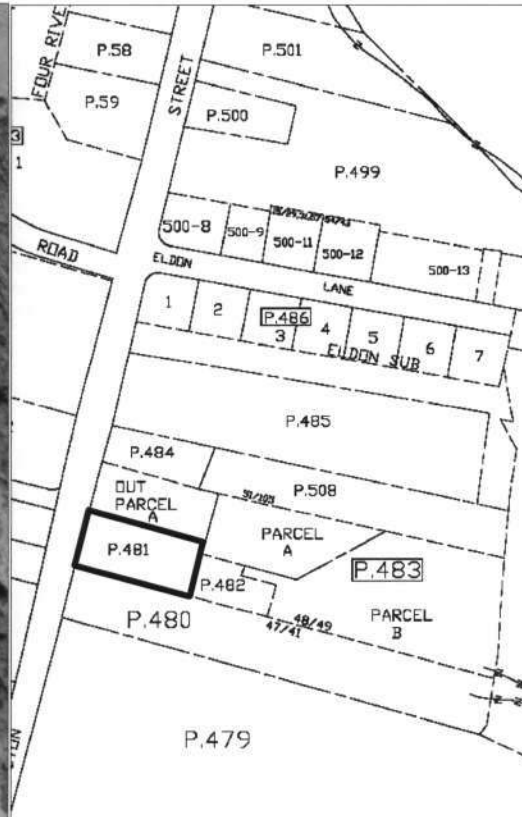
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Leonardtown quad 1963 (Photorevised 1984, Bathymetry added 1982)



An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. A white rectangle is drawn around a house located in the lower-left quadrant of the image. The house appears to be a single-story structure with a dark roof. The surrounding area includes other houses, trees, and a road running vertically on the left side of the image. The overall tone is grayscale.





SM-365

Fenwick House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Aug/98

Md SHPO

W + N elevation

1 of 3



SM-365

Fenwick House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Aug/98

Md SHPO

S+E elevations

2 of 3



SM-365

Fenwick House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Aug/98

Ad SHPO

Chimney detail - looking W

3 of 3



SM - 365

W. W. Sawyer
House

Leonardtown

P. Weissman

August 1979

SM-365
W.W. Sawyer House
Leonardtown

Photographs were taken of this house by Peggy Weissman in August of 1979. The house appears to be a late 19th or early 20th century frame house with an octagonal corner tower , projecting gables, and a wraparound porch. The porch is supported by iron posts, the windows are 2/2 sash, except for the tower windows which are 1/1, the house appears to be sheathed in asbestos siding, and has a standing-seam metal gable roof. All of these features give the house the feel of an early 20th century house built with some late Late Victorian detailing.



SM-365

W. W. Sawyer House

Leonardtown

P. Weissman

August 1979